



United States Department of Interior  
1005 Selway Drive

Bureau of Land Management

Dillon Field Office  
Dillon, Montana 59725

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### **BLM Proposes Additional Access to north end of the Gravelly Mountains**

#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DILLON - The Bureau of Land Management, Dillon Field Office is proposing to reopen a four-wheel drive route to public travel, in the area of Axolotl Lakes, south of Virginia City, to provide better access for recreationists and area residents into the north end of the Gravelly Mountains. The route, commonly known as the "stock driveway," traverses the Axolotl Lakes WSA, and was closed to all wheeled motorized travel in 1990.

Madison County Commissioners originally approached the BLM about re-opening the Bachelor Gulch Road in the same area in response to the concerns of Virginia City residents. The Bachelor Gulch Road, an historic road that provides access into the same area, has been closed to wheeled motorized vehicles since at least 1982 due to concerns over erosion. As a result of conversations between BLM officials and the Madison County Commissioners, it was determined that the stock driveway would provide the needed access in a more environmentally responsible manner.

An environmental assessment will be prepared for the proposed project this winter. If you would like more information, please contact Rick Waldrup, Outdoor Recreation Planner, at (406) 683-8020. Written comments to be considered in the analysis should be submitted no later than January 30, 2004 to the Bureau of Land Management, 1005 Selway Drive, Dillon, MT, 59725.

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